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# across the board

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## New Initiatives for Stakeholder Input

**T**his letter to the editor from Alberta Energy and Utilities Board Communications Manager Tom Neufeld was published in the May 11, 2005 issue of the *Red Deer Express*. It outlines the role of the EUB and discusses two recent bulletins: Bulletin 2005-08 regards subsurface well spacing issues for public consultation, while Bulletin 2005-09 puts forth a draft process for enforcing our regulations.

The Alberta Energy and Utilities Board is the province's energy regulator. We make sure that the discovery, development and delivery of Alberta's energy resources take place in a manner that is fair, responsible and in the public interest.

A big part of our job is to make sure that oil and gas companies working in Alberta comply with the EUB's rules and regulations. Last year, we conducted over 15,000 inspections of energy facilities, we responded to 850 complaints from the public about energy facilities, and we suspended 118 energy facilities and operations that did not adhere to the EUB's tough rules and regulations.

Our job is to make sure that energy development takes place safely. It is also our job to listen to the views of Albertans on energy development and we welcome all public scrutiny of our decisions. In carrying out our business, the EUB regularly consults with Albertans. We frequently send out draft proposals and

then ask the public for its opinion. Recently, the EUB released two initiatives for stakeholder input which have resulted in considerable feedback.

On March 10, 2005, we released Bulletin 2005-08 regarding subsurface well spacing issues for public consultation. Then, on March 21, 2005, a new draft process for enforcing our regulations was put forth in Bulletin 2005-09.

### Bulletin 2005-08 Subsurface Well Spacing

Subsurface well spacing is linked to the number of wells potentially necessary to recover natural gas from a gas pool. The draft proposal in Bulletin 2005-08 examines subsurface or reservoir issues only, and focuses on ensuring that Alberta's energy resources are conserved, and not wasted.

Concerns around surface facilities are not changing. Notification and consultation of landowners and residents will continue in processes outside the scope of this bulletin. This change focuses landowner and resident

consultation to the point in the process when it is most valuable: when applications for surface facilities are being developed, not when underground geology is being investigated.

This subsurface spacing initiative was sent out for public consultation as we want to know what Albertans think of this important initiative.

## The American Association of Petroleum Geologists

### 2005 Annual Convention Exploring Energy Systems

June 19 – 22, 2005

Calgary Stampede Park

The American Association of Petroleum Geologists and host the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists, along with the AAPG Canada Region, extend an invitation to join them at the AAPG Annual Convention in Calgary for a "Global Round-Up" to "Explore Energy Systems." From June 19-22, experience Calgary's world-renowned Western hospitality and benefit from a technical program that explores energy systems around the globe.

## About the EUB

*Our mission is to ensure that the discovery, development, and delivery of Alberta's energy resources and utilities services take place in a manner that is fair, responsible, and in the public interest. We regulate oil, natural gas, oil sands, coal, hydro and electric energy, pipelines, and transmission line development.*

*On the utilities side, we regulate investor-owned natural gas, electric, and water utilities to ensure that customers receive safe and reliable service at just and reasonable rates. Regulation is done through two core functions: adjudication and regulation, information and knowledge.*



**For Your Information...****Recent EUB publications****News Releases**

**May 30:** NR 2005-10: EUB Releases Field Surveillance Report Industry Compliance Up, Pipeline Failure Rate Down in 2004

**May 18:** NR 2005-09: EUB Approves Need for 240 kV Transmission Development in Southwest Alberta

**Publications**

**May 30:** Statistical Series 57: Field Surveillance Provincial Summary for 2004

**Decisions**

**May 25:** Decision 2005-052: Bow Valley Energy Limited Application for a Well Licence Mikwan Field

**May 24:** Decision 2005-053: FortisAlberta Inc. 2005 Distribution Tariff Negotiated Settlement Agreement

**May 24:** Decision 2005-054: Orr Mineral Developments Ltd. Sale of Suffield Natural Gas Distribution System

**May 20:** Decision 2005-051: ATCO Electric Ltd. 2004 Rider G

**May 17:** Decision 2005-049: Alberta Electric System Operator Needs Identification Document Application Southwest Alberta 240-kV Transmission System Development Pincher Creek – Lethbridge Area

**May 16:** Decision 2005-048: Canadian Natural Resources Limited Application for a Well Licence Frog Lake Area

**May 10:** Decision 2005-043: EPCOR Energy Inc., EPCOR Energy (Alberta) Inc., EPCOR Distribution Inc., EPCOR Transmission Inc. (The EPCOR Utility Businesses) Application for Code of Conduct Exemption Green Power Program

**May 10:** Decision 2005-047: Alberta Federation of REAs Ltd. and The Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties Review and Variance of Decision 2003-053

**May 10:** Decision 2005-042: EnCana Corporation Review of Requirement to File Thermocouple Data Established in Decision 2003-023 Chard Area and Leismer Field

**May 9:** Decision 2005-046: APF Energy Inc. Applications for a Well Licence Joffre Field

**May 6:** Decision 2005-045: ATCO Electric Ltd. Review and Variance of Decision 2002-079

**May 6:** Decision 2005-044: ExxonMobil Resources Ltd. and ExxonMobil Canada Ltd. Application for a Well Licence Okotoks Field

**May 3:** Decision 2005-040: Declaration Pursuant to Section 106 of the Oil and Gas Conservation Act Daniel Blair Grant

**May 2:** Decision 2005-041: Shell Canada Limited Section 39 Review Request on ERCB Decision D 83-22 Moose Mountain Pipeline Facility

**April 29:** Decision 2005-037: ATCO Electric Ltd. 2003/2004 General Tariff Application Impact of the Retail Transfer and ITBS Volume Forecast

**April 28:** Decision 2005-036: ATCO Gas, A Division of ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. Imbalance and Production Adjustments – Deferred Gas Account

**April 26:** Decision 2005-038: CU Water Limited Inter-Affiliate Code of Conduct Compliance Plan

**April 26:** Decision 2005-033: Sawtooth International Resources Inc. Compulsory Pooling Redwater Field

**April 26:** Decision 2005-027: Celtic Exploration Ltd. Application for Common Carrier and Common Processor Orders Otter Field

**New Initiatives for Stakeholder Input***(continued from page 1)***Bulletin 2005-09 Compliance Assurance**

In the spirit of continual regulatory improvement, the EUB is striving to improve the way it enforces its regulations. Compliance is not negotiable for industry and we have a history of taking decisive action when our rules are not met. This commitment will not change.

*“..the compliance assurance bulletin was sent out for public input so we could hear what Albertans thought of our proposed new approach.”*

The goal of the compliance assurance initiative is to strengthen public safety, minimize environmental impacts and improve resource conservation. Industry's record of field compliance with the EUB's major rules and regulations has never been better at 98 per cent, but our goal is to continue to improve.

Once again, the compliance assurance bulletin was sent out for public input so we could hear what Albertans thought of our proposed new approach.

The EUB continues to keep pace with record industry activity. Proposals and initiatives such as the subsurface well spacing bulletin and our compliance assurance initiative ensure that our processes are evolving along with the province we all live in. As a strong, fair and responsible regulator, we need to move forward to address current trends and future realities.

Albertans would expect no less.

Yours truly,

Tom Neufeld  
Alberta Energy and Utilities Board  
Communications Manager. ❖



## EUB Reaches Out to Municipalities and Health Authorities

**T**hirty-four is the magic number. Referred to as Recommendation 34, it's the EUB's new way to increase and improve relationships with local health and municipal authorities across the province.

Divided into two protocols, municipal and health, the recommendation has the EUB working with the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC), Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA), Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Health and Wellness, Health Canada and regional health authorities to build a better understanding of the needs and interests of all the different parties.

An increase in the efficiency of the relationships with the different organizations, better understanding of collective and individual needs and interests, and enhanced working relationships are just some of the benefits expected to come out of the recommendation.

The protocols have three components, including a process to consult local authorities whenever the EUB has a review of the regulatory process or requires input

into an EUB process or policy. The EUB will also take part in discussions on regional oil and gas issues. Being a part of these discussions will also enhance the working relationships of the EUB and regional representatives.

In turn, these efforts will help the EUB to continuously improve the applications process as a whole.

***"An increase in the efficiency of the relationships with the different organizations, better understanding of collective and individual needs and interests, and enhanced working relationships are just some of the benefits."***

To increase efficiency further, AAMDC, AUMA and the regional health authorities will communicate with the EUB through one voice. An example of this already being practised is regional health authorities working through the Council of Medical Officers of Health (COMOSH) to

determine if changes are needed to the emergency notification system after the Acclaim blowout. If changes are to be recommended, COMOSH would present any recommendations on behalf of the health authorities, instead of each individual authority making its own.

The approach will undergo a two year test period, and its success will greatly depend on whether it is being used to its full extent.

The new protocol will be used whenever an EUB employee is working with an initiative that involves or impacts local health and/or municipal authorities.

For additional information about the protocol process, a list of contacts for participating organizations, or to determine if your initiative applies to the protocol, contact Christine Macken at (403) 297-4828 or at [christine.macken@gov.ab.ca](mailto:christine.macken@gov.ab.ca). ♦

## Utilities Stakeholder Consultation Inaugural Meeting June 15

**A**s part of its commitment to provide efficient and effective regulation, the Board has established a new consultative process for discussion of issues pertinent to the regulation of the utilities industry. The Board will be holding regular meetings with representatives from utilities, municipalities, intervenor groups and their representatives.

The Board's purpose in conducting these meetings is to provide timely information as well as invoke frank discussions and solicit feedback as to how the Board can improve its regulatory processes and manner of regulation. The sessions will be chaired by Board member Mr. Ian Douglas, chair of the Utilities Regulatory

Committee, and other Board members that sit on the EUB's Utilities Regulatory Committee will be present.

Depending upon the topics to be discussed at a particular focus group meeting, individuals will be asked to participate by invitation only. An agenda and copies of discussion papers on the various topics will be sent out to participants prior to the meetings.

"These consultations are a great opportunity for stakeholders, from utilities companies to customers, to talk about issues that are of importance to them," said Bob Heggie, Executive Manager, EUB Utilities Branch. "We envision frank,

sharply focused discussions involving up to 20 stakeholders at a time around the table, and we're looking forward to hearing what they have to say."

The first session is scheduled for June 15, 2005 at the EUB offices in Edmonton, 12th Floor Hearing Room, 10055 - 106 Street. Hearing Costs and Pre-hearing Process Improvements are the topics for discussion at the inaugural session.

The Board will provide honorariums for disbursement costs for individuals requiring assistance. ♦



This list is subject to change at any time, so please check the complete list of upcoming public hearings on the EUB Web site at <[www.eub.gov.ab.ca/bbs/applications/hearings/hearings.pdf](http://www.eub.gov.ab.ca/bbs/applications/hearings/hearings.pdf)>. If you do not have Internet access, contact EUB Information Services at (403) 297-8190.

## Upcoming public hearings

Application No.	Applicant	Hearing Purpose
Proceeding 1347905	Board Initiated Proceeding	Phase 3 Proceedings Under Bitumen Conservation Requirements - Athabasca Wabiskaw McMurray
Start date: June 14, Venue TBD		
1373842	Nexen Canada Ltd.	Application for a Well Licence - Wetaskiwin Field
Start date: June 29, Best Western Wayside Inn, 4103 - 56 Street, Wetaskiwin		
1365168	Penn West Petroleum Ltd.	Application for a Single Well Gas Battery - Drayton Valley/Bigoray Field
Start date: July 5, Super 8 Motel, 3727 - 50th Street, Drayton Valley		
1379164	Prospex Resources Ltd.	Application for Well Licence - Garrington Field
Start date: July 5, Spruce View Community Hall, Main Street, Spruce View		
1362101 1362102	Galleon Energy Inc.	Application for two well licences - Harmon Valley Area
Start date: July 5, Peace Valley Inns, 9609 - 101 Street, Peace River		
1365573	AltaGas Ltd.	Application requesting approval to construct and operate a gas processing plant - Princess Field
Start date: July 13, The Heritage Inn, 1217 - 2nd Street W, Brooks		
1378000	AltaGas Utilities Inc.	2005/2006 General Rate Application Phase I
Start date: July 18, Edmonton Hearing Room of the EUB, 10055 - 106 Street		
1393859	Encana Corporation	Review of Licence Number 0307423 - Strathmore Field
Start date: July 20, Civic Center, 120 Brent Blvd, Strathmore		

## Pending decisions

Application No.	Applicant	Hearing Purpose
1276857 1276858 1276859 1276860 1307759 1307760 1278265 1310351	Compton Petroleum Corporation	Applications for Well Licences to Drill Six Critical Sour Natural Gas Wells, Application for Special Well Spacing and an Application for Production Facilities, Okotoks Field, Southeast Calgary Area
1366746	Intrepid Energy Corporation	Application for a well licence - Sturgeon Lake South Field
1365322	EnCana Corporation	Review Hearing - Filing of Thermocouple Data - Decision 2003-023 - Chard Area/Leismer Field
1081995 1081996 1082375	Canadian Natural Resources Limited	Application for a primary recovery scheme
1346815	Compton Petroleum Corporation	Application for a Well Licence - Crossfield Field
1386951	Anadarko Canada Corporation	Review Hearing of Well Licence 0308210
1357130	ATCO Gas South	2005/06 Carbon Storage Plan - Preliminary Question
1367022	EPCOR Utilities Inc.	Request for exemptions from sections of the EPCOR Code of Conduct under the Green Power Program
1301794	Canadian Hydro Developers Inc.	Request for Review and Variance of Board Decision dated April 14, 2003
1396409	NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd.	Approval of their rate design as well as the rates, tolls and charges based on the NGTL Phase I Settlement

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### Tell us how we're doing

Please send your comments and suggestions to <[acrosstheboard@gov.ab.ca](mailto:acrosstheboard@gov.ab.ca)>.

### For EUB publications or inquiries, contact EUB Information Services

640-5 Avenue SW, Main Floor  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3G4  
Telephone: (403) 297-8190\* Fax: (403) 297-7040  
E-mail: <[eub.info\\_services@eub.gov.ab.ca](mailto:eub.info_services@eub.gov.ab.ca)>  
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### For Alberta Geological Survey (AGS) documents on geological research, contact Information Sales

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Web: <[www.ags.gov.ab.ca](http://www.ags.gov.ab.ca)>

### Questions, complaints, problems?

**Utilities:** For information or to file a consumer utility complaint, contact us at

EUB Utilities Branch, 10th floor, 10055-106 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2Y2  
Fax: (780) 427-6970  
Complaints: (780) 427-4903\*  
E-mail: <[utilities.concerns@eub.gov.ab.ca](mailto:utilities.concerns@eub.gov.ab.ca)>

**Oil and gas:** For information or complaints about new or existing oil and gas developments and facilities, we recommend contacting the operating company first. If the company does not respond appropriately, you may contact the nearest EUB Field Centre.

EUB Field Centres	(24-hour service)
Bonnyville	(780) 826-5352*
Drayton Valley	(780) 542-5182*
Grande Prairie	(780) 538-5138*
Fort McMurray	(780) 743-7214*
Medicine Hat	(403) 527-3385*
Midnapore	(403) 297-8303*
Red Deer	(403) 340-5454*
St. Albert	(780) 460-3800*
Wainwright	(780) 842-7570*

\* To call toll free from anywhere in Alberta, dial 310-0000 and enter the phone number, including area code, or press zero for a RITE operator.

### Across the Board Advisory Committee

Diane Earle, Bob Curran, Cal Hill, Barbara Kapel Holden, Pat Smith, Becky Torrance

**Editors:** Darin Barter, Davis Sheremata





